

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12

OMB-01 AID-20 IO-12 EUR-25 RSR-01 /140 W

----- 091687

P R 030228 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1087

INFO USDEL JEC PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 7686

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION SAIGON 2 MAY 73 REPEATED TO YOU

QUOTE:

CAN THO 0269

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, MOPS, PINT, CA, CB, HU, ID, PL, VS

SUBJECT: SITREP FOR MAY 2, 1973

1. SUMMARY: MR IV MILITARY ACTIVITY INCREASED ON MAY DAY WITH 72 INCIDENTS REPORTED. AMONG THE COMMUNIST ICCS DELEGATES, AHUNDRED FLOWERS OF OBSTRUCTIONISM ARE BLOOMING. THE VC PLAN TO RELEASE CIVIL DETAINEES IN THE U MINH FOREST.
END SUMMARY.

2. SECURITY SITUATION: BOTH THE INTENSITY AND NUMBER OF VC/ NVA INITIATED INCIDENTS INCREASED DURING MAY 1. THERE WERE 60 ATTACKS BY FIRE, 9 GROUND ATTACKS, AND 3 SABOTAGE INCIDENTS. RVNAF SUFFERED 14 KIA, 125 WIA, AND 25 MIA FOR THE DAY. FORTY- FOUR VC WERE REPORTED

KILLED. MOST OF THE FIGHTING TOOK PLACE IN CHUONG THIEN PROVINCE WITH THE HEAVIEST ACTION OCCURRING IN KIEN THIEN THIEN DISTRICT AND NORTH OF VI THANH DINH TUONG PROVINCE WAS AGAIN ACTIVE AND SEVERAL SHARP CONTACTS WERE REPORTED FROM NORHERN HONG NGU ALONG THE CAMBODIAN BORDER.

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3. ICCS: (A) THE HUNGARIANS HAVE ASSIGNED A LEGAL HATCHET MAN TO THEIR REGION VII DELEGATION. MAJOR MILLOS DERI, A 45- YEAR OLD, OWLISH- LOOKING OFFICER- LAWYER, HAS VIRTUALLY TAKEN COMMAND OF THE HUNGARIAN AND POLISH TEAMS' STRATEGY. A MASTER OF LEGAL SOPHISTRY, DERI MANAGES TO SLOW DOWN DISCUSSION AND DECISIONS, RAISING ENDLESS BUT TELLING PROCEDURAL POINTS.

(B) THE POLES' AND HUNGARIANS' OBSTRUCTIONIST TACTICS, AS ALICE WOULD SAY, GET CURIUSER AND CURIUSER. ON APRIL 29, THE REGION VII VINH LONGTEAM BEGAN AN INVESTIGATION IN CHO LACH DISTRICT. WHEN THE COMMUNIST DELEGATES LEARNED THEY WOULD HAVE TO GO BY BOAT, THEY BALKED, SAYING THEY COULD TRAVEL ONLY BY CAR. THE CANADIANS AND INDONESIANS PRESSED ON WITH THE INVESTIGATION, MINUS THEIR HYDROPHOBIC COLLEAGUES.

(C) THE POLES AND HUNGARIANS IN REGION VII ARE MAKING FINE DISTINCTIONS BETWEEN " INSPECTIONS" AND " INVESTIGATIONS". THE COMMUNISTS CANNOT SIGN INSPECTION REPORTS BECUASE THEY ARE ONLY FOR THE INFORMATION OF REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS. THEY CANNOT CONDUCT

AN INVESTIGATION UNLESS AUTHORIZED BY THEIR REGIONAL CHIEFS, WHICH IS RARELY FORTHCOMING. AS THE CANADIAN DELEGATE SUMMARIZED, THE COMMUNISTS ARE ALLOWED TO GO ALONG ON INSPECTIONS BUT NOT TO SIGN REPORTS; THEY MAY SIGN INVESTIGATIONS BUT NOT CONDUCT THEM.

(D) AS POLISH AND HUNGARIAN OBSTRUCTION OF ICCS WORK HAS INCREASED, PERSONAL RELATIONS BETWEEN SUB- REGIONAL TEAMS HAVE DETERIORATED. THE NORMALLY PHLEGMATIC COMMANDER OF CANADA'S OC TRANG TEAM TOLD CONSULATE GENERAL OFFICERS THAT HE AND HIS MEN ARE SO FED UP WITH THEIR POLISH AND HUNGARIAN COLLEAGUES, THAT IN THE PAST TEN DAYS THEY HAVE STOPPED JOINING THE COMMUNISTS IN SPORTS EVENTS OR EVENING ENTERTAINMENT.

4. COMMUNIST ACTIVITY: (A) VC/ NVA FORCES IN CHUONG THIEN ARE CARRYING OUT THEIR GAME PLAN (CAN THO 0237). RATHER THAN ATTACK DISTRICT TOWNS IN CHUONG THIEN, THE VC/ NVA ARE HITTING RVNAF TROOP POSITIONS AND OUTPOSTS WITH A HEAVY VOLUME OF INDIRECT FIRE. DURING MAY 1, INDIRECT FIRE ATTACKS AVERAGED 10-15 ROUNDS OF HEAVY MORTAR FIRE APIECE. THE VC APPEAR TO BE TRYING TO FORCE RVNAF TO GIVE UP FIXED POSITIONS WITH MINIMUM LOSSES TO THEMSELVES. THE LARGE VOLUME OF INDIRECT FIRE CONFIRMS THE CONTINUED AND HEAVY USE OF INFILTRATION ROUTES INTO SOUTHERN MR IV FROM CAMBODIA.

(B) THE VC/ NVA ARE NOT PREPARING TO ABANDON THE STRATEGIC 20 JULY CONFIDENTIAL

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BASE AREA IN SOUTH DINH TUONG. RVNAF INTELLIGENCE REPORTS THAT THE E-24 REGIMENT HAS BEGUN TO MOVE SOUTH OVER HIGHWAY 4 INTO SAM

GIANG AND CAI LAY DISTRICTS TO SUPPORT THE VC' S DONG THAP 1 REGIMENT WHICH HAS HELD THE AREA AGAINST INCREASING RVNAF PRESSURE.
(C) AGAIN THE TWO SOUTHEASTERN DISTRICTS OF PHONG DINH PROVINCE, THUAN

NH

AND PHUNG HIEP, THE VC HAVE BROUGHT TOGETHER A SIZEABLE FORCE OF LOCAL GUERRILLA COMPANIES TO ATTACK AND HARASS RVNAF POSITIONS. THE AREA IS AN EXTENSION OF THE LONG MY CORRIDOR, A FAVORITE VC/ NVA SUPPLY ROUTE, AND HAS BEEN REASONABLY QUIET FOR THE LAST SEVERAL MONTHS. ON MAY 1 VC LOCAL FORCES ATTACKED A SERIES OF PF POSITIONS AND INFLICTED CASUALTIES. MR IV HAS ASKED PHONG DINH SECO5 R TO STRENGTHEN ITS POSITIONS IN THE TWO DISTRICTS, SINCE A VC SUCCESS IN THE AREA WOULD MAKE INFILTRATION INTO THE CENTRAL DELTA EASIER.

(D) RVNAF INTELLIGENCE REPORTS THAT ALL ELEMTNS OF THE 5 TH NVA DIVISION' S E-1 AND E-3 REGIMENTS HAVE CROSSED INTO CAMBODIA (CAN THO 0251).

5. CIVIL DETAINEES: WE ERRONEOUSLY REPORTED ON APRIL 30 THAT GVN PLANNED TO RELEASE 52 CIVIL DETAINEES IN AN XUYEN AND 4 IN BA XUYEN (CAN THO 0260). ICCS SOURCES NOW INFORM US THAT IT IS THE VC WHO PLAN TO RELEASE 52 TO 56 DETAINEES IN THE U MINH FOREST. THE MOVE WAS NEGOTIATED THROUGH THE JMC. ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED FOR APRIL 30 THE RELEASE WAS DELAYED BECAUSE THE VC NAVIGATORS ACCOMPANYING THE JMC, LOST THEIR WAY TO THE CONTACT POINT. ACCORDING TO ICCS REGION VII SOURCES, THE JMC IS TRYING TO GO AHEAD WITH THE PLAN AND HOPES TO COMPLETE IT TODAY. THE ICCS BROUGHT A SPECIAL PRISONER INSPECTION TEAM TO CAN THO BUT IN THE POLISH- INDONESIAN CHANGE OF COMMAND, REGION VII FAILED TO ASK FOR PRG CLEARANCE TO FLY TO THE DESIGNATED POINT. AS A RESULT, THE ICCS WILL NOT BE PRESENT FOR THE RELEASE. WE HAVE NO FURTHER INFORMATION FOR PLANS IN BA XUYEN.

BARNES

UNQUOTE

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*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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